

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SALEM, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2014**

PRESENT

Frank Sroka/ Chairman
Kenneth Bondi
Wendy Mikolinski

ABSENT

Andrew Lightner
Ada Vail
Jenifer Lee

GUESTS

Cindy Noe/ Recording Secretary

Carl Fountneau
Richard Serra
Robert Ross

1. CALLED TO ORDER

Frank Sroka called the meeting to order 7:07pm.

2. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNARE AS REGULAR (IF NEEDED)

M/S/C- (Mikolinski/Sroka) to seat alternate Kenneth Bondi as a full Commission member for this meeting.

Vote: Approved unanimously

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING ON MAY 19, 2014

M/S/C- (Bondi/Mikolinski) - to approve May 19, 2014 minutes as presented.

Vote: Approved unanimous

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. REPORTS

A. SELECTMAN/EDC LIAISON

Selectman Robert Ross stated that the town is currently moving forward with the Salem School Education Economic Study. Ross stated the study should begin in the fall. He also

stated that he recommended to Kevin Lyden that no Selectman member be involved with the study to obtain a complete outside disinterested evaluation. Ross stated that the Fire/Emergency Service Study should be available in September. He believes the study will have a big impact on the town's finances. Ross stated that the study shows that fire/emergency services already have more apparatus than needed. He stated that the distribution of resources between the fire companies is off, with one company responsible for 75% of the town and the other with the remaining 25%, and competing for most of the same resources. Skora stated that something that should be looked into is a mandate that would exclude rural municipal fire companies from having to train at the same level of large city fire companies.

B. P & Z LIAISON (ADA VAILL)

No discussion – Ada Vaill absent from meeting

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. TOWN BROCHURE (LATEST REVISION)

Sroka asked Serra if he would be available for his input on the Salem town brochure. Serra stated that they could set up an appointment to work on the brochure together. Mikloinski and Bondi are also going to attend the meeting on the brochure.

B. BUSINESS OWNERS SURVEY

No discussion took place

C. PACKET PROJECT FOR NEW BUSINESS OWNERS CONSIDERING SALEM

No discussion took place

D. SALEM BUSINESS DATA BASE

No discussion took place

E. OPEN HOUSE TO SHOW VACANT BUSINESSES

Sroka stated the Commission needs to decide as a group if this project and the pavilion project is worth pursuing right now. He felt this should be discussed at the next meeting.

F. OPEN HOUSE FOR SALEM BUSINESS AT PAVILION

9.) NEW BUSINESS

Town planner, Richard Serra, attended this meeting. Skora stated that Serra has been the Town planner for approximately 1 ½ years. Serra stated that he is full time planner for COG, Counsel of Governments, but is available for planning assistance in Salem on Wednesdays from 1-3pm. Serra stated he is also available through email, rserra@seccog.org, or phone, 860-889-2324 when he is not in Salem. Serra recommended that EDC members attend a COG meeting. He believes it could be very beneficial for EDC members. He stated that he also attends the Planning and Zoning Commission meetings. Serra gave the attending EDC members a portion of the Town of Salem Plan of Conservation and Development that deals with economic development (See File Copy). Serra stated that the Streetscape planning that was completed by UConn is available through a drop box for anyone interested; interested parties could send a request to Serra through email and he will forward the link. Serra stated that business that focus on the rural aspect of Salem or that benefit the residents of Salem would be a great focus point for EDC. Skora stated

that a town survey was completed about 3-4 years ago and the consensus was that small business that fit into the landscape of Salem would be acceptable.

Sroka stated he would like to have EDC members volunteer to pick an EDC project to focus on so projects could come to completion. He stated he will be sending out an email to members regarding volunteering to be a project manager. Bondi is going to get in contact with website contractor for the Salem town website and give them information from the EDC regarding available business sites to add to the current site. Bondi will also meet with Lyden to discuss what kind of links can be added to connect the townspeople with EDC.

10. NEXT MEETING/ MEETING ADJOURNED

The next EDC meeting is July 21, 2014

M/S/C- (Bondi/Mikolinski) - to adjourn meeting at 8:27pm

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted
Cindy Noe
Recording Secretary